

## SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for  
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



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January 2019

### Marion Christmas Tree Lighting

Marion's Christmas Tree Lighting was again absolutely magnificent



in spite of the unpredictable weather. Hundreds of people crowded on Main Street to witness this year's Christmas Prelude and Tree Lighting Celebration. Thanks to Morris Ward for a wonderful show, from the opening dance by Em-

malyn Davis School of Dance to the Finale Dance performed by Justine Roberts Dance Academy. Mayor Ashley Brady welcomed the citizens and guests. The Pre-Christmas show began with a performance from Emmalyn Davis School of Dance. The courthouse steps were lined with children from Easterling Primary and Pee Dee Academy School singing Christmas songs. Mr. Emery Henderson on his Trombone played "The Christmas Song." Wonderful job Mr. Henderson. The reading of the Christmas Story was by Pastor Scot Collins. Also performing was Ms. LaTorrey Hemingway singing "Mary, Did You Know."

Special Thanks to Morris Ward, his crews, Winkie Fore, Randy Brown and their crew and all who worked diligently to make this year's event special. Fireworks followed immediately at Withlacoochee Park. Again, we thank everyone for everything you do to make Marion a better place.



### Filing opens January 9th for City of Marion

The City of Marion seats for Districts 1, 2 and 4 will be held on Tuesday, April 9th. Filing for candidates begins Wednesday, Jan. 9th at noon and closes on Friday, Feb. 8th at noon. **There is no filing fee.** The last day to register to vote in the April election is March 10th and you must live within the **Districts**. To find out more about having a proper ID to vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission at 2523 E Hwy 76 or call Teresa Moody at 423-8268.

Additionally, political signs may only be displayed on private property. City ordinances prohibit the placement of signs on public property, including the right of way.

Signs picked up for being improperly posted will be collected and can be claimed by candidates at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street.

Remember every vote makes a difference.



### Marion Christmas Parade

The Chamber would like to thank all those who came out for the rescheduled Christmas Pa-

rade on Wednesday, December 12th. It was a wonderful day

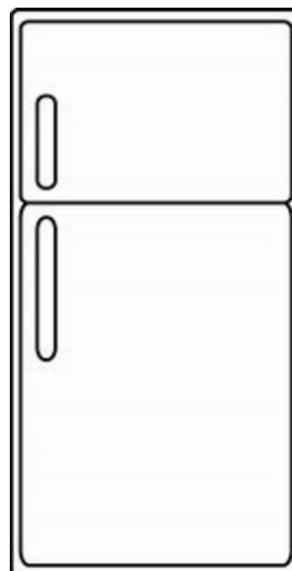
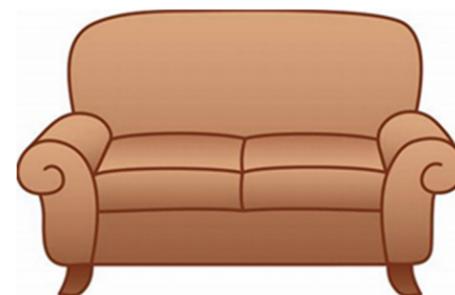
and a big thank you to our Grand Marshall, Mayor Ashley Brady. The chamber would also like to thank Anderson Brothers Bank, the City of Marion, and Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank for sponsoring the commercial floats in the parade.



### Attention Residents

Yard debris will be picked up Monday thru Friday. If you see a white flag, please move yard debris to the designated area. **(Away from utilities)**

Brown and white goods will be pickup on Wednesday and Thursday **ONLY**.



For more information contact City Hall at (843) 423-5961

### NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Ashley Brady**, (843) 992-3773
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Gwendolyn Davis**, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Gray**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Cliff Wilbanks**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Randy Brown**, Maintenance Superintendent (843) 423-5961
- Winkie Fore**, Public Works Superintendent (843) 423-8648
- Tony Flowers**, Police Chief (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith**, Captain (843) 423-8616
- Lt. Marilyn Rogers**, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Sgt. Derrick Smith**, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Jackie Yates**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins**, Victim Advocate / Administrative Assistant, (843) 423-8616

### Marion Chamber announces Yard of the Month



Ms. Allyson Lett has been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for December 2018. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. & Ms. Lett will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

### Employment Opportunities

The City of Marion is a great place to work! We employ approximately 80 full-time associates who are our most valuable assets. Our goal is to recruit and retain the best qualified applicants and to maintain a productive and competitive workforce in the delivery of services to the citizens of Marion.

- Current Employment Opportunities**
- Fire Department: NFPA Firefighter II**
- Police Department: Class I Law Enforcement Officer**

It is our policy to fill all vacant positions with the best qualified candidates based on skills, knowledge, abilities and suitability to the City's needs. The City of Marion is a drug free work environment and is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, religion, national origin, race, disability or political affiliation.

Qualified candidates may pick up applications at City Hall. If you are in need of special accommodation for any portion of the application or hiring process, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Elizabeth Gray.

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Ashley Brady or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

### Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, December 4th at A Father's Place, located at 1301 North Main Street in Marion. Deborah Martin, Chamber President welcomed a Father's Place to our community. Wallace Evans, Executive Director, for a Father's Place expressed their appreciation and talked about the importance of fathers in their children's life and the opportunities offered by A Father's Place.

A Father's Place is a community-based non-profit designed to strengthen families through father engagement. For more than fifteen years, AFP has focused on helping fathers overcome barriers to being a responsible and involved father with the goal of improving the lives of low-income children by helping parents support them financially and emotionally. They currently have facilities in Marion, Conway, Georgetown, Myrtle Beach and Williamsburg and can be reached at 843-488-2923.

### City Annual Arbor Day



The Azalea Garden Club and others in the community gathered on December 7, 2018 on The Marion Hike-Bike Trail for the annual Arbor Day Celebration. The planting of one Muskogee Crepe Myrtle was in Honor

and in Memory of United States veterans. The Marion Azalea Garden Club sponsored a Poster contest for students at Marion Intermediate School. The school had three winners: Taylor Bass won with first place; Na'Keria Gerald earned second place; and Peyton Wahl received third place. Mrs. Melanie Dozier, principal, took the students to the Arbor Day event in downtown Marion on December 8, 2018 where they displayed their posters to the members of the Azalea Garden Club and other distinguished guests. We are so proud of our students for their wonderful accomplishments.



### City continues caring for neighbors



For the 9th consecutive year, City of Marion residents, civic clubs and businesses have reached out to those less fortunate and given generously to help others have a wonderful Christmas meal. Police officers and firefighters distributed food boxes to families.

The Department of Social Services recommends the recipients for the donations. Mayor Ashley Brady, Marion City Council and City Administrator Alan Ammons are truly appreciative of the donations that have been and will be made.

Let's give a warm welcome to the year that starts a new, cherish each moment that the year shall behold, so let's come together and celebrate a blissful start to the New Year.

**Mayor Ashley Brady, Marion City Council and City Administrator Alan Ammons.**

### Green City's October employee of the Month



The City of Marion selected Ellis Green as the October 2018 Employee of the Month. Ellis has been working with the City of Marion since March 2017. He started in maintenance at the Marion Recreation Department and transferred to his current position in the Public Works Department in July 2017.

According to his supervisor, Public Works Superintendent Winkie Fore, Ellis is "a dedicated employee with a lot of enthusiasm who takes great pride in his work."

There is no task within the department that is too large or too small for Ellis. His duties include beautification projects such as planting trees and preparing flower beds, mowing grass in the summer, and decorating the City for the Christmas season.

Ellis also serves the community as an official for the Marion Recreation Department. He has called many youth baseball, softball, and basketball games in Marion.

The Mayor and Council recognized Ellis Green for his positive attitude and significant contributions to the City of Marion during the November 13 City Council Meeting.



### Ms. Jean Townsend Retiring

The Marion County Public Library will be hosting a special drop-in retirement party for Ms. Jean Townsend on January 10th. Ms. Jean T. has been with the library system for over 28 years, and she has touched many patrons' lives through bookmobile and youth services. We invite the community to stop in at the main branch from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and celebrate Ms. Townsend with us!



**January 1st** - City Offices Closed in observance of New Year Day; reopen 8:00 a.m. January 2nd.

**January 3rd** - 8:30 a.m. **Rise and Shine** at Rosewood Manor House located at 900 N. Main Street.

**January 8th** - 6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

**January 10th** - 9:30 a.m. **Storytime** at Marion Library.

**January 17th** - 9:30 a.m. **Storytime** at Marion Library.

**January 17th** - 4:00 p.m. **Family Crafternoon** at Marion Library.

**January 21st** - **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** - City Offices Closed.

**January 22nd** - 6:30 p.m. **Marion Chamber of Commerce**, Annual Meeting, Woodhaven. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner, Awards and Auction.

**January 30th** - 4:00 a.m. **Friends Group Interest Meeting**, at Marion Library.

**January 31st** - 9:30 a.m. **Storytime** at Marion Library.

### Recycle your Christmas Tree!

Christmas trees can be dropped off at the Marion Fire Department on Bond Street in the parking lot. Please remove all decorations before leaving the trees. If you have any questions, please call the fire department at (843) 423-8602 or the City of Marion at (843) 423-5961. Thanks!

### A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

"WE ARE OUR NEIGHBORS' KEEPERS"

By: Dolly Boyer

Happy New Year from A-Team. I hope 2019 is a wonderful and prosperous year for the citizens and the City of Marion. As a hometown girl, I see the changes that have come to Marion over the years. And I realize they are not all positive. I wish we still had the jobs and booming downtown. I wish our tax base was strong from the operating factories. I remember walking downtown with my visiting grandmother and hearing her brag about the wonderful southern hospitality. The kids had a movie theater to go to on Saturday afternoons. I remember having a hard time finding a parking place on Main Street. I remember riding bikes through my neighborhood and stopping to visit the retired ladies sitting on their porches. Each of them enriched my life and left me with fond memories. I remember selling Girl Scout cookies door to door. I miss all these things. Rather than sit in my home and moan about all the things Marion and my neighborhood aren't I choose to look at the positive and ask myself "what can I do to make things better?" The first thing we can each do is be positive. No, that doesn't mean wear blinders. It means be proactive. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem and realize things have changed everywhere. Every month A-Team holds a neighborhood watch meeting. We have a group of citizens that are committed to being a part of the solution and then we have others that are concerned about their problems and only show up because of their difficulties. They want to get help but not be a helper. They want support but are not supportive. Come to the Firehouse on East Bond Street on the first Monday each month and be part of the solution. We meet at 6:30 PM. Join us and see how you can help make your neighborhood a safer, better place to live. For more information call Dolly @ 843-433-0941.



.....**GOING ON IN MARION** .....

**City Rentals**

We are starting a **NEW YEAR**, which means the NEW rental calendar is accepting reservations for Grice's, Shannon Wilkerson Gymnasium and Watsonia Recreation facilities. These facilities hold up to 150 people are equipped with warming kitchens, heating/air and restrooms. Also, Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter located on **Green Street** for those looking for an outside event. Make sure that you get your event booked as soon as possible. So to reserved your date for that special occasion give us a call at (843) 423-5410.

**CDJ Aerobics**

Aerobics classes are offered Monday thru Friday evening, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at CD Joyner. Taught by Ms. Lillie Ann Sanders, the classes are \$30 per month. For information or details, call Recreation Department at 423-5410.

**Ping Pong Club**

Don't forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.

**Marion Fire Department New Fire Truck**

The Marion Fire Department new fire truck arrived last month. The new fire engine will replace a 1985 fire truck. The new fire truck was help funded by a \$50,000 USDA grant.



**Just a reminder!**

Did you know that **tires or TV's** placed curbside in the City of Marion is considered litter? By City Ordinance, for health and safety reasons and in accordance with DHEC regulations, City employee's no longer pickup tires or TV's at curbside.

This is a friendly reminder and courtesy to let you know that the fine for littering is **\$1,092.50**. Homeowners are to disposal or unwanted tires & TV's at the Palmetto Hardwood Recycle Center located at 2631 Senator Gasque Rd, Marion SC.

Call Palmetto Recycle Center for Hours of Operations at (843) 423-8284. For additional information, call Marion City Hall at (843) 423-5961.



**CHILI COOK-OFF**

HMRA is working on planning the 10th Annual Chili Cook Off. Save the date: **Saturday, February 23**. Are you a chili cooker? Do you know someone who would like to enter? Call Stephanie at **843-423-9918** for more details or check out their website [www.theswampfox.org](http://www.theswampfox.org).

**We are looking for chili cookers.**

**Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center**

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Ms. Lillie Sanders. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

**Senior Bingo**

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month from 8:30 a.m. –9:30 a.m. at Watsonia Recreation. Bingo is FREE of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

**City's Playgrounds**

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

**Withlacoochee Park**

Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion's Tennis Courts.

**Grice's Recreation Center**

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

**Tilghman Park**

409 Montgomery Street - This location has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

**Gray City's November employee of the Month**



Personnel and Purchasing Director Elizabeth Gray was honored with the City of Marion's Employee of the Month Award for November 2018.

Elizabeth joined the City of Marion in 2007. She is responsible for assisting the Mayor and City Administrator in planning and coordinating the City's human resource management programs and is the authorized purchasing agent for the City, overseeing the procurement of a variety of supplies, materials, equipment and other services. Elizabeth also administers the City's employee wellness programs.

"I can always count on Elizabeth", said City Administrator Alan Ammons. "She gives 100 percent every day and always strives to do what is best for our employees and the City."

Mayor Ashley Brady and City Council recognized Elizabeth Gray for her service and dedication to the City of Marion at the December 11th Council Meeting.



**Marion Chamber Annual Meeting**

Save the date on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, Marion Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting at Woodhaven. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be serviced at 6:30 p.m. There will be Awards, Auction, Door prizes, 50/50 and more. We hope to see you there!